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# The Kenya Drylands Livestock Development Program

Helping pastoralists adapt to changing climate and changing times



*The Garissa livestock market before the current drought.*

## Kenya Drylands Livestock Development Program (KDLP)

The Kenya Drylands Livestock Development Program launched in September 2010 to enhance trade in livestock and livestock products, with the goal of raising both income and food security for a minimum of 50,000 pastoralist households in the districts of Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Ijara and Tana River. In these areas, up to 90 percent of adults rely on livestock for their livelihoods and the sector contributes as much as 95 percent of family incomes. It is a concrete action to develop resiliency of pastoralist communities to drought.

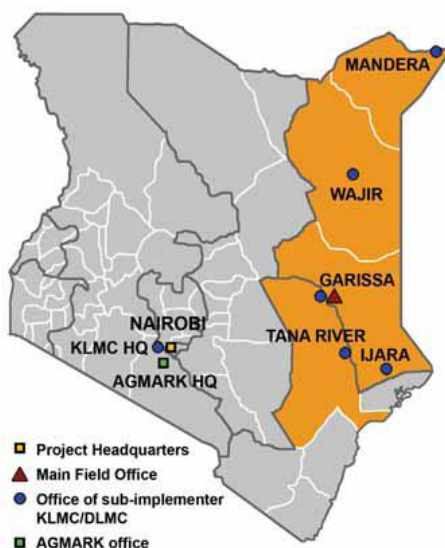
Objectives include providing \$7.2 million in credit guarantees and creating 600 new jobs in the livestock value chain to catalyze production, value-adding activities such as camel meat and milk processing, marketing and trade. The \$10-million project runs until 2013.

## The Context

Pastoralism has been the optimal use of the land for centuries in Kenya's vast drylands. Traditionally, families would herd their livestock--cattle, camels, sheep, goats and donkeys --to water and pasture, trekking up to hundreds of kilometers throughout the year. Today, the pastoralist way of life is becoming tenuous as more frequent and severe droughts, population growth and continued insecurity spilling over from neighboring Somalia constrain the movements of pastoralists and their herds.

## Activities - KDLP is beginning to:

- Provide pastoralists the connections to sell livestock directly to the markets of Mombasa and Nairobi for fattening and slaughter, without paying middlemen who skim the profit.
- Encourage pastoralists to market their livestock while in prime condition, before devastating drought reduces their value
- Connect pastoralists to agrovet suppliers (sellers of inputs such as veterinary drugs) to enhance the health and value of livestock....





- Improve the policy environment for pastoralists and livestock trade. For instance, enable groups to advocate for reducing the multiple taxes as livestock move between counties; and the creation of a Drought Management Authority to coordinate drought-mitigation efforts.
- Enable pastoralists to add value to livestock products e.g. train community members, particularly women, in processing camel milk for the market; making camel yoghurt; preserving camel meat; and crafting jewelry from camel bones.

- Encourage the production of fodder, both for participants' livestock and for sale, especially along the few permanent rivers. Groups are also starting to grow drought-tolerant varieties of grasses and fodder, for use fresh and for hay. In addition, some are making livestock feed from prosopis, an invasive shrub.

Women's groups engaged in the production and marketing of meat and other animal-based products receive special attention for technical, financial and business-development assistance. In addition, the program is exploring innovative methods of reaching youth with employment opportunities and training.

In the near future, the project plans to assist its target pastoralist communities to develop a Community-Owned Financial Institution (COFI) to facilitate savings and credit for members.

### Implementing Partners

The main Implementing Partner is the Citizen Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA). The two key local partners are the Agricultural Market Development Trust (AGMARK), which deals primarily with veterinary inputs and; the Kenya Livestock Marketing Council (KLMC), a pastoralist group concerned with marketing, and its District Livestock Marketing Councils (DLMCs) branch offices.

Kenya DLDP is headquartered in Garissa with a sub office in Nairobi. District-level operations are managed by KLDC/DLMC in Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Ijara and Tana River.

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